Trade between India and East-European countries

*352. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of trade between India and East-European countries during the last three years, item-wise and amount-wise;

(b) how many MoUs have been signed by Government with these countries, alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the areas in which Government are promoting trade with these East-European countries, item-wise targets fixed thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Bilateral trade between India and European countries during the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002) amounted to US$ 376.60 million, US$ 387.88 million and US$ 468.51 million respectively. The items traded between India and East European countries include tea, coffee, drugs/pharmaAine chemicals, yarn/fabrics/madeup and garments of cotton and manmade fibres, dyeing/tanning/colouring material, processed vegetables, machinery, metallic and non-metallic manufactures, etc.

(b) Based on the priorities attached with the India-East Europe trade, bilateral MoUs have been signed between the concerned Indian agencies like ECGC, Exim Bank, ITPO, NCTI, etc. and their East European counterparts in the areas of information exchange, trade fair facilitation, export credit and guarantee, insurance, etc. These MoUs would facilitate as enabling mechanism to promote bilateral trade and investment.

(c) Although no item-wise targets have been set for trade with East Europe, some of the priority sectors identified for promoting trade with East European countries include Engineering/Automobiles, Software/IT, Bio-technology, Drugs and pharma, Food processing and Textiles/Leather products.

Assessment of demand of water in towns of Gujarat

*353. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the requirement and demand of water for different uses in the small towns of Gujarat and the availability of utilisable water in such towns of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central assistance has been made available to the State for the purpose during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and results achieved therefrom, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANT KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No Central assistance has been made available during the last three years to the State of Gujarat for the purpose of assessing the requirement and demand of water for different uses in the small towns of Gujarat. However, this Ministry is implementing the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) since 1993-94 unoer which funds are provided on 50:50 matching basis between Centre and the State Governments. Central assistance of Rs. 2117.78 lakhs in respect of 47 water supply schemes has been provided to Gujarat since inception of the Scheme.

Production of documentary films

†*354. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fees Doordarshan charge on the proposal for the production of documentary films in the commission category and the extent of time being taken to accord approval;

(b) whether there is any special provision for Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region;

(c) the details of the proposals which are pending with the Director-General, Doordarshan for the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.